

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00380 021226Z

46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OMB-01 NIC-01

OC-06 CCO-00 M-03 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 RSR-01 /138 W

----- 104983

O P 011130Z JUL 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0441

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0380

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS IZ

SUBJ: ABORTIVE COUP

1. RADIO BAGHDAD ANNOUNCED AT 2000 HOURS JULY 1 THAT COUP ATTEMPT BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY NAZIM KZAR ON JUNE 30 HAD FAILED. STATEMENT SAID KZAR AND HIS UNKNOWN SUPPORTERS HAD INVITED MINISTER OF DEFENSE, LT GENERAL HAMMAD SHEHAB, AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR LT GENERAL SAADOUN GHAIKAN AND OTHERS TO LUNCH ON JUNE 30 WITH INTENT TO IMPRISON THEM AND THEN SEIZE CONTROL. PLAN MISFIRED AND KZAR AND SUPPORTERS FLED TOWARD IRANIAN BORDER TAKING TWO MINISTERS WITH THEM. THEY WERE CAUGHT, BUT NOT BEFORE THEY KILLED SHEHAB AND SLIGHTLY WOUNDED GHAIKAN. RADIO AND TV READING FROM KORAN AND SHEHAB FUNERAL SET FOR 0800 JULY 2. AS OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00380 021226Z

2300 HOURS JULY 1 CITY APPEARS NORMAL EXCEPT FOR HEAVY SECURITY

GUARDS AROUND STRATEGIC POINTS, MANY OF THEM PARTY MILITIA.

2. RUMORS OF COUP BEGAN CIRCULATING EARLY MORNING OF JULY 1 FOLLOWING REPORTS OF SHOOTING DURING NIGHT. CHIEFS OF MISSION, WHO WERE AT AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE OF DUTCH AMBASSADOR, TIED SHOOTING IN WITH FACT THAT PRESIDENT AL-BAKR'S PLANE WAS UNACCOUNTABLY TWO HOURS LATE, ARRIVING AT 2000 JUNE 30, ON RETURN FROM STATE VISITS TO BULGARIA AND POLAND. AIRPORT RECEPTION WAS UNUSUALLY MODEST AND NEITHER SHEHAB NOR GHAI DAN WERE PRESENT.

3. MANY RUMORS AND THEORIES NOW CIRCULATING SINCE FEW OBSERVERS GIVE CREDIBILITY TO GOI STATEMENTS. PAKISTANI CHARGE TOLD ME THAT PRESIDENT'S PLANE HAD BEEN TOLD TO DELAY LANDING UNTIL ALL WAS SAFE AND THAT AF PLANE WAS IN AIR TO SHOOT PLANE DOWN, BUT WHEN PILOT LEARNED THAT PLOT DISCOVERED, HE FLED ACROSS BORDER. THERE IS ALSO RUMOR THAT SEVERAL HUNDRED ARMY PERSONNEL AND BAATH MILITIA WERE KILLED IN CLASHES ON JULY 1 WHEN MILITIA WENT TO TAKE CONTROL OF CAMP RASHID, LARGEST MILITARY INSTALLATION NEAR BAGHDAD. CLOSEST THING TO CONFIRMATION OF THIS IS RELIABLE REPORT FROM BRITISH NURSE AT LOCAL HOSPITAL THAT AT ABOUT 1300 JULY 1 LOUDSPEAKER CALLED FOR ALL PERSONNEL TO STAY ON DUTY AND ALL AVAILABLE DOCTORS AND NURSES WERE SENT TO RASHID MILITARY HOSPITAL.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT OBVIOUSLY TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE SIGNIFICANCE THESE EVENTS, CERTAIN ELEMENTS STAND OUT. GENERALS SHEHAB AND GHAI DAN WELL KNOWN AS CLOSE RELATIVES AND SUPPORTERS OF PRESIDENT BAKR. THEY ARE LAST TWO MILITARY MEN ON RCC, EXCLUDING BAKR. THUS PLOT AGAINST THEM COULD BE SEEN AS NEXT TO FINAL ACT IN TAKEOVER OF COMPLETE POWER BY SADDAM HUSSAIN AND CIVIL WING OF BAATH; PROCESS WHICH INCLUDED ASSASSINATION OF GENERAL HARDAN AL-TIKRITI IN MARCH 1971 AND FORCED EXILE OF LTGEN SALAH MAHDI AMMASH IN OCTOBER 1971. SINCE GHAI DAN APPARENTLY ONLY SLIGHTLY WOUNDED AND ALLEGED PLOTTERS TO BE TRIED, HOWEVER, THIS EXPLANATION SEEMS UNLIKELY, OR ELSE PLOT BADLY MISFIRED.

5. IT PERHAPS COINCIDENCE THAT THE FOUR KURDISH MINISTERS WERE ALSO ABSENT FROM AIRPORT RECEPTION YR BAKR. POSSIBILITY THAT KURDISH ISSUE INVOLVED IN THIS BAATH POWER STRUGGLE SHOULD NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 00380 021226Z

HOWEVER BE RULED OUT SINCE THIS HAS BEEN ISSUE ON WHICH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LEADERS STRONGLY DISAGREED IN PAST.

6. AS OF 0800 JULY 2 CITY APPEARS NORMAL EXCEPT FOR CROWD GATHERING FOR SHEHAB FUNERAL PROCESSION.
LOWRIE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAGHDA00380
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LOWRIE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730759/aaaabrqpq.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABORTIVE COUP
TAGS: PINS, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005